

## NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 468

### Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office

#### Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b>2009-11 Expenditure Authority</b>	8.8	2,212		2,212
<b>Total Maintenance Level</b>	19.3	5,484		5,484
Difference	10.5	3,272		3,272
Percent Change from Current Biennium	119.3%	147.9%		147.9%
<b>Performance Changes</b>				
Reduce Staffing and Other Costs	(1.0)	(516)		(516)
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(60)		(60)
State Data Center Rate Increase		14		14
<b>Subtotal</b>	(1.0)	(562)		(562)
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	18.3	4,922		4,922
Difference	9.5	2,710		2,710
Percent Change from Current Biennium	108.0%	122.5%		122.5%
<b>Total Proposed Budget by Activity</b>				
Inactive - Environmental Adjudication	19.3	5,161		5,161
Environmental Adjudication	(.5)	(95)		(95)
Land Use Planning Adjudication	(.5)	(144)		(144)
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	18.3	4,922		4,922

#### PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

##### Reduce Staffing and Other Costs

Funding and FTE staff are reduced on an ongoing basis to reflect a variety of savings measures, including eliminating attorney positions, implementing voluntary leave without pay, downshifting staff time, and taking reductions in goods and services. As a result, remaining board members and administrative law judges will carry higher caseloads, which could increase turnaround time in handling cases.

#### ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

##### Inactive - Environmental Adjudication

The Environmental Hearings Office is composed of five independent adjudicative boards -- the Pollution Control Hearings Board, the Forest Practices Appeals Board, the Shorelines Hearings Board, the Hydraulic Appeals Board, and the Environmental and Land Use Hearings Board -- that hear appeals of certain local, regional, and state agency environmental decisions. The boards were created to provide independent review of these agency decisions in an expedited and cost-effective manner.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION**

### **Environmental Adjudication**

The Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) and Shorelines Hearings Board (SHB) within the Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office are independent, quasi-judicial adjudicative boards that hear appeals of certain local, regional, and state agency environmental decisions related to permitting and enforcement. The Boards conduct evidentiary hearings, evaluate scientific and other factual evidence, and produce written legal decisions that interpret, apply, and enforce state environmental laws related to water rights, water quality, air quality, hazardous waste, forest practices, and shoreline management.

### **Land Use Planning Adjudication**

The Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) within the Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office is an independent, quasi-judicial adjudicative board that resolves disputes regarding local government compliance with the land use planning requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and related matters. The GMHB uses regional panels to hear appeals related to local government comprehensive plans, development regulations, and other components of the GMA. The final products from the GMHB are legal decisions which enforce the State's Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A).